

PATENT APPLICATION
Do. No. 1941-70

JBG
1/10/02
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Paul J. BRUINSMA; Suresh BASKARAN; and
Jagannadha R. BONTHA and Jun LIU

Serial No. 09/481,988

Examiner: P. Marcantoni

Filed: January 11, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1755

For: MESOPOROUS-SILICA FILMS, FIBERS, AND POWDERS BY EXEVAPORATION

Box NonFee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Responsive to the Office Action, dated April 4, 2002, please amend the application
as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making mesoporous silica materials, comprising the steps of

- (a) combining a silica precursor with an aqueous solvent, an acid and a surfactant having an ammonium cation into a silica precursor solution,
- (b) templating the silica precursor with the surfactant and obtaining the mesoporous material from the templated silica precursor,
- (c) forming said silica precursor solution into a preform; and
- (d) rapidly evaporating said aqueous solvent from said preform for obtaining the mesoporous material, wherein the improvement comprises:
- (e) providing said aqueous solvent in an amount resulting in complete hydrolysis and providing said acid in an amount maintaining a hydrolyzed precursor and avoiding gelation or precipitation; and